

We claim:

1. An image capturing device, comprising:
a body including a lens barrel;
a two-axis user selection device affixed to said lens barrel, said user selection device being displaceable along axes in orthogonal directions and being movable in a direction toward said lens barrel by a depressing operation;
a horizontal displacement sensor capable of generating an electronic signal related to a horizontal displacement of said user selection device;
a vertical displacement sensor capable of generating an electronic signal related to a vertical displacement of said user selection device; and
a depression sensor capable of generating a select signal when said user selection device is depressed.
2. The image capturing device of claim 1, wherein said user selection device comprises a finger joystick.
3. The image capturing device of claim 1, wherein said user selection device comprises a four-way rocker switch.
4. The image capturing device of claim 1, wherein said horizontal and vertical displacement sensors comprise rocker switches.
5. The image capturing device of claim 1, wherein said horizontal and vertical displacement sensors comprise potentiometers.

6. The image capturing device of claim 1, wherein said user selection device is located on said lens barrel at a region contacted by a user holding said image capturing device.

7. The image capturing device of claim 1, further comprising a lens ring rotatably mounted onto said lens barrel, said user selection device is affixed to said lens ring, and wherein said lens ring is capable of being rotationally positioned by a user.

8. The image capturing device of claim 1, further comprising:

a lens ring rotatably mounted onto said lens barrel and said user selection device is affixed to said lens ring; and

a lens ring restraining device, said lens ring restraining device being selected from the group consisting of a friction lock, a cam lock, and a plurality of detents.

9. An image capturing device, comprising:

a body including a lens barrel;

a lens ring rotatably mounted onto said lens barrel;

a two-axis user selection device affixed to said lens ring, said user selection device being displaceable along axes in orthogonal directions and being movable in a direction toward said lens barrel by a depressing operation;

a horizontal displacement sensor capable of generating an electronic signal related to a horizontal displacement of said user selection device;

a vertical displacement sensor capable of generating an electronic signal related to a vertical displacement of said user selection device; and

a depression sensor capable of generating a select signal when said user selection device is depressed;

wherein said lens ring is capable of being rotationally positioned by a user.

10. The image capturing device of claim 9, wherein said lens ring further comprises a friction lock capable of retaining said lens ring in a fixed rotational position on said lens barrel.

11. The image capturing device of claim 9, wherein said lens ring further comprises a cam lock capable of retaining said lens ring in a fixed rotational position on said lens barrel.

12. The image capturing device of claim 9, wherein said lens ring further comprises a plurality of detents capable of restraining said lens ring in one of a plurality of predetermined positions by said plurality of detents.

13. The image capturing device of claim 9, wherein said user selection device comprises a finger joystick.

14. The image capturing device of claim 9, wherein said user selection device comprises a four-way rocker switch.

15. The image capturing device of claim 9, wherein said horizontal and vertical displacement sensors comprise rocker switches.

16. The image capturing device of claim 9, wherein said horizontal and vertical displacement sensors comprise potentiometers.

17. The image capturing device of claim 9, wherein said user selection device is located on said lens barrel at a region contacted by a user holding said image capturing device.

18. A selection input method for an image capturing device, comprising the steps of:

providing a two-axis user selection device on a lens barrel of said image capturing device, said user selection device generating a horizontal displacement signal related to a horizontal displacement of said user selection device and a vertical displacement signal related to a vertical displacement; and

providing a selection switch that detects a depression of said user selection device and generates a select signal when said user selection device is depressed.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

providing a lens ring on said lens barrel, said lens ring being capable of rotating on said lens barrel; and

affixing said user selection device to said lens ring;

wherein said lens ring is capable of being rotationally positioned by a user.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of providing a lens ring restraining device capable of restraining a rotation of said lens ring on said lens barrel.